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UPSET! ATLANTIS RETAINS NWA WORLD MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Also, Sangre CHicana wins hair of el Brazo de Oro

This past Tuesday night, June 16, 1992, at la Arena Mexico in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, Atlantis defeated la Bestia Salvaje (Juan Manuel Carrillo Rodriguez) in three falls to retain his NWA World Middleweight Championship.

The victory by Atlantis highlighted a rare Tuesday night sellout card at the 49-year old tinder box. It continued a lengthy title reign for Atlantis. Atlantis won the title at la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, on Wednesday, August 1, 1990, and has now held onto the title for 34 successful defenses (all wins, no draws).

Despite the loss, his spot in the match certifies Salvaje's meteoric rise to the top rung of success in lucha libre. A year ago, he was a face in the EMLL crowd, and now he challenges for one of the oldest and most prestigious titles in Mexican wrestling. The upset in the title was that Salvaje had been scheduled to defeat Atlantis for the title on a card back on April 3, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, but Salvaje had broken his nose and missed the date. As reported by Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David Scherer of Marmora, New Jersey, who watched the highlighthiWEMLL show on satellite, the match itself appeared to be excellent.

The rest of the Tuesday card went as follows. In the semifinal, Lizmark teamed with Apolo Dantes and la Mano Negra to defeat los Nuevos Infernales (M. S. 1, el Satanico, and el Pirata Morgan) two falls to one. The tercera saw Kung Fu, el Felino, and el Comando Ruso defeating the team of Kato, el Cachorro Mendoza, and Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla two falls to one. This was Kato's debut match; he is the legit son of the original Kato Kung Lee, Johnny Lezcano Smith. The segunda saw los Guerreros del Espacio (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and Damian, el Guerrero) defeating el Trio de Ultratumba (el Espectro junior, el Espectro de Ultratumba, and el Cadaver de Ultratumba) two falls to one. And the inicial saw Talisman junior and el Gran Apache I defeating Babe Richard and Mario Prado junior two falls to one.

As I had mentioned earlier, highlights of the Atlantis/Salvaje match aired on the weekly EMLL Saturday night show in Mexico City and on satellite. Otherwise, no other features or extras aired, and the show featured the last four matches of the card held Friday, June 19, 1992, at la Arena Mexico. The match that was off television featured los Supremos I y II versus la Aguila Solitaria and el Solar II.

The television opener was the segunda at the arena. Here, the team of Jose "el Negro" Casas, el Espectro junior, and el Espectro de Ultratumba defeated the team of el Dandy, la Mano Negra, and Ringo Mendoza in two straight falls. For the second straight week, el Dandy and el Negro Casas got into a "pique." They may have a stipulation match down the road. Casas won the second fall clean by pinning Dandy with Dandy's own finisher, the Dandina cradle, aka "la magisterial." It is a real suprise to see Casas work so low on the card after the EMLL has been trying so long to get him booked. It lends some credence to the heavy rumors that Casas may well be jumping yet again, this time to the Triple A. As reported by Scherer, this match was pretty good, at ** 3/4.

The tercera saw a draw between the tecnico team of Lizmark, el Brazo de Plata, and el Brazo and the rudo team of la Bestia Salvaje, la Fiera, and Emilio Charles junior. El Brazo was attempting to put la Bestia Salvaje into "la tapatia" submission hold, but Salvaje shifted his weight back and both men's shoulders were pinned to the mat, as "Mister Justicia" referee Roberto "el Guero" Rangel counted both men's shoulders down for the count of three. This was rated at ***. I still find it hard to believe that el Brazo de Plata is working this much and this soon after two heart attacks in six months. That rudo team sure looks like a dream team, doesn't it, and should serve to remind the fans that the Triple A did not strip the EMLL of all of the EMLL's best talent. It seems like the younger guys are ending up in the Triple A, the oldest guys in the UWA, and the guys in the middle in the EMLL. Obviously, with Aguayo, Fishman, and Cien Caras in the AAA, it's not totally true, but this rule of thumb is not a bad reference point at least.

The semifinal of the card saw el Faraon, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense cleanly defeat los Nuevos Infernales (el Satanico, M. S. 1, and el Pirata Morgan) in three falls. I have little other details on this match other than it seemed that they did not continue the "Infernales' split" that has been hinted at for six weeks now. This was rated at *** 1/4.

The main event saw a caballera contra caballera match, and once again I was surprised at the result. Sangre CHicana (Andres Richardson Reyna) defeated el Brazo de Oro (Jesus Alvarado Nieves) two falls to one. The finish of the third and final fall saw el Brazo de Oro on offense most of the way, but Sangre CHicana made a comeback and el Brazo de Oro was draped through the ropes in CHicana's corner. Suddenly, CHicana's second, la Bestia Salvaje, grabbed a foreign object (maybe American-made?) and nailed el Brazo de Oro in the head, "knocking him out." Sangre CHicana then rolled el Brazo de Oro back in to the ring for an easy three count. Official EMLL barber "Pancho" Penazaloe then entered the ring a cut a "still unconscious" el Brazo de Oro's hair off. I had really figured newly-turned face el Brazo de Oro would win this. I suspect now that one of the Brazos will now go after the hair of la Bestia Salvaje in revenge. This match was said to be very disappointing and rated at ** 1/2 tops. I can see that Sangre CHicana is old and doesn't bump much any more. He is effective in trio tags but alone for twenty minutes in a singles match and the lack of things he can still do becomes obvious, even though he knows what to do with all his experience.

In other EMLL results that I have not reported yet:

* The official order of the Bull Nakano versus Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales match was a double pin in the third fall and then they did restart the fall, ending as I had described the "fifth fall" last week as Lola dove for a cross body block but Bull rolled on through. To set up the finals, the EMLL had held a fifteen-lady over-the-top rope battle royal the Friday night before (6/5). The order of elimination was: la Guerrera Purpura, Selene, Atenas, Neftali, Wendy la Guerrerrilla, la Pantera Surena, Zuleyma, Maria del Angel, la Sirenita, KAORU (Karou Maeda), Lady Apache, Xochitl Hamada, and Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos, leaving Nakano and Gonzales in the ring.

* At the card at la Arena Coliseo from Tuesday, June 2, 1992, the main event saw la Bestia Salvaje team with el Comando Ruso and el Supremo I to defeat Atlantis, CHavo Guerrero, and The Blue Demon junior. In the semifinal, Ulises Plus teamed with Gargola el Sultan and el Supremo II to defeat el Jalisco, el Hijo del Solitario, and el CHamaco Risas two falls to zero when el Hijo del Solitario turned heel on el Jalisco. The tercera saw los Brazos defeat los Infernales (Jaque Mate, Masakre, and Pierroth junior) in a non-title match. You would think this would be higher on the card but these two team were double booked and had to leave early to to main event on a card later that same night. Also on that show, Bull Nakano teamed with Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos and la Panterita Surena (legit daughter of la Pantera Surena who debuted in this match) to defeat Xochitl Hamada, Lady Apache, and Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales two falls to one.

* On May 31st, 1992, at la Arena Solidaridad in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, The Blue Panther, Sangre CHicana, and el Angel Blanco junior defeated el Volador, el Misterioso, and el CHamaco Maravilla two falls to one. The third fall saw The Blue Panther made el Misterioso submit clean to the "la tapatia." I have no other results on this card.

* On May 27th in la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco, Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense, el Hijo de Lizmark, and The Blue Demon junior teamed to defeat Jose "el Negro" Casas, el Gran Markus junior, and Sangre CHicana two falls to one. The semifinal saw Popitekus, Troglodita (ex-el Hombre Bala), and el Felino defeat el Hijo del Solitario, el Jalisco, and el CHamaco Risas (recognize that team?) two falls to one when, guess what? You got it—el Hijo del Solitario turned heel, this time on local wrestler Risas. La Sirenita teamed with Alda Moreno to defeat Neftali and la Venus in the tercera two falls to one. Moreno is the legit younger sister of Rossy, Esther, and Cynthia Moreno, and this was said to be her debut match. The segunda saw Sangre Guerrero defeat el LLanero in three falls. The inicial had el Rudo over Super Brillante in three falls.

* Finally for results, on May 24th, in Lazeno Cardenas, Michoacan, Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos and la Pantera Surena defeated Xochitl Hamada and Lady Apache two falls to one to retain their Mexican National Luchadoras' Parejas Championships.

Now onto some very recent cards:

* On Monday, June 22, 1992, at the "el Deportivo Olimpico" gym in Mexico City, the main event featured the team of Love Machine, Salomon Grondy, and Atlantis versus los Brazos (el Brazo, el Brazo de Oro, and el Brazo de Plata).

* On Sunday, May 21, 1992, at la Arena Naucalpan, a death parejas match was held. Tecnico Forastero and rudo el Felino teamed up to face tecnico Kundra and rudo el Gigante Blanco. They wrestled in a two out of three falls match. The losing team would then split up and face each other in a two out of three fall match, with that final loser losing either his hair or mask. I suspect Forastero lost his mask.

*On 6/21 at la Arena Coliseo, Kung Fu, Egipcio, & Negro Casas faced Apolo Dantes, Mano Negra, & Aguila Solitaria.

* Also on Sunday, May 21st, at la Arena Mexico (results may be in late news on page four) the main event featured a non-title match for los Intocables del Ring (Pierroth junior, Masakre, and Jaque Mate) as they faced Atlantis, el Dandy, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon.

* The Sunday afternoon card (6/21) at la Pista Arena Revolucion saw Ulises Plus, Gargola el Sultan, and el Medico Asesino junior face el Cachorro Mendoza, CHavo Guerrero, and Javier "Chamaco" Valaguez.

* The night before (less than nineteen hours earlier), the EMLL held another card at la Pista Arena Revolucion, this time featuring Ulises Plus, Kung Fu, and Sangre CHicana on top against los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo de Plata, el Brazo de Oro, and el Brazo).

* 6/20 at al Arena Puebla saw The Love Machine (Arthur James Barr), Black Magic (Norman Smiley), and Apolo Dantes (Jose Luis Amezcua Curiel) face the trio of los Nuevos Infernales, made up of el Satanico (Jose Daniel "Danielito" Lopez Lopez junior), el Pirata Morgan (Francisco Ortiz Villanueva), and M. S. 1 (Pablo Fuentes Reyna).

* Back on Sunday, June 14th, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, el Jalisco, The Blue Demon junior, and la Aguila Solitaria met el Egipcio, el Pirata Morgan, and la Bestia Salvaje.

* Also on 6/14, at la Arena Toluca, el Macho II and el Fiero faced The Black Birds I and II.

* Also on 6/14, at la Arena Naucalpan, M. S. 1 junior, King Imperio, and el Secreto Negro met in a "triangular de la muerte" match where the first wrestler to lose twice would lose either a mask or a hair. My hunch is that el Secreto Negro lost his hair.

* Also on 6/14, at la Pista Arena Revolucion, la Mano Negra, el Filoso, and The Love Machine faced Ulises Plus, Gargola el Sultan, and el Supremo I in the main event. Just nineteen hours earlier, el Rayo de Jalisco junior had won the Mexican National Heavyweight Title from el Egipcio.

* On Saturday, June 13th, 1992, in a card held at la Arena Coliseo de San Luis Potosi in the city and state of the same name, Pierroth junior defended his CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship versus Lizmark. I do not know who won for sure but since no reference has apparently been made on EMLL television to the contrary, I expect Pierroth junior retained his title.

In news that is not result- or card- related:

* Several new wrestlers are set to debut for the EMLL soon. They include "Los Mafia," "el Halcon Dorado II," "el Halcon de Plata," the duo of "el Toro" and "el Charro Gonzales"--who used to work as "el Torito Hernandez" and "el Charrito de Oro," respectively--and Christian Diaz who has jumped here from the UWA.

* Esther Moreno has been out with an injury, but returns to action in Japan on June 21st, 1992.

* El Hijo del Solitario, suspended by the Mexico City commission for the month of June, has been booked by the EMLL on tiny cards in tiny arenas in the interior of Mexico, out in the boondocks so to speak.

* Another lucha libre couple to announce: Mitsuki Wong is married to el Rayo de Jalisco junior.

* Among the several EMLL wrestlers who have had nice magazine write-ups lately are el Hijo del Solitario, Lady Apache, her husband el Gran Apache I, the original Blue Demon, the original Huracan Ramirez, Lethal, Javier "Chamaco" Valaguez, Valente Perez, and el Septiembre Negro junior.

* Several EMLL wrestlers will go on a tour of Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan from 6/26 to 7/9. They include el Rayo de Jalisco junior, el Jalisco, el Solar II, Panico, la Aguila Solitaria, el Nuevo Audaz, Ponzona, el Cachorro Mendoza, el Egipcio, la Venus, Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales, Mitsuki Wong, and one other to be announced luchadora.

* El Brazo de Oro has also challenged for the mask of Pierroth junior.

* Opera star/ring announcer Vitorino has bought into a percentage of the promotional rights at la Arena Coliseo!

* Lastly, the other big story underground is the possible co-promotion of the EMLL and the UWA. It seems likely that before too long the EMLL will lose its television slot on Televisa that it currently has running on Saturday nights. Though the EMLL and Televisa have apparently a valid five-year contract that runs from 9/1/91 to 9/1/96, nonetheless insiders feel that before long Televisa, which owns part or all of the Triple A, will find a way to kick the EMLL off its stations totally. The big rumor is that if this happens, EMLL promoter Paco Alonso and UWA promoter Carlos Maynes, not the best of friends to begin with, will reach an agreement where the EMLL will either take over part of the UWA time or run along side it on Imevision (channel 13). An item in this weekend's newspapers suggests that the old union, the SNL, is already using some of its considerable financial resources to co-promote wrestlers from both promotions in mid-week cards in nearby towns of Pachuca, Leon, Queretaro, Toluca, and Netzahualcoyotl. This would serve the main purpose of keeping Antonio Pena bottled up in those towns. EMLL is off Galavision for good, though.

AAA: I have two television cards to report on. Next week (6/28) on Galavision, these matches occur: The inicial is off of television; there el Canalla I and el Angel Mortal faced Kid Boxer and el Matematico IV. In the segunda, and opening the television show, Super Kiss, Super Kalo, and Winners defeated Doctor Maldad, Mister Maldad, and Karis la Momia two falls to one. This was said to be spectacular, especially from Winners. Rated by David Scherer at ***. The tercera had Katana, el Galactico, and Superstar over rudos The Ice Killer and two debuting guys, el Tornado and el Maligno, in three falls. The rudos had the tecnicos beat in the third fall but they kept pulling the tecnicos up at the count of two rather than complete the pinfall, so babyface referee Pepe "Tropi" Casas disqualified the rudos. Rated at ** 3/4. The semifinal saw los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (Rocco Valente, his brother Tony Arce, and el Vulcano) defeat el Angel Azteca, Kendo Star, and el Solar I in three falls in a rematch of this week's TV semifinal. This was rated at ** 3/4. The main event was also a rematch. This time, The Blue Panther, Fishman, and la Parca defeated Octagon, el Hijo del Santo, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo in three falls as Aguayo and Octagon were disqualified for hitting heel referee el Tirantes (aka "el Suspenders"). Fishman and Aguayo apparently set up a mascara contra caballera match after this match; I won't even go out on a limb on predicting that one. The television that aired this week (6/21) on Galavision was taped 6/12 at "la Arena Jose Maria Arteaga" in Queretaro, Queretaro, Mexico. I thought that it was the best Triple A show I have yet seen of the five that have aired. The inicial saw Winners, Super Kalo, and Super Kiss look much improved over last week as they defeated Atila junior, Bleda, and captain el Picudo in three falls in 15:38. The finish saw Winners barely hit el Picudo with a spectacular but way off the mark quebrada off of the top rope and Superstar then cover el Picudo for the win. These guys are improving rapidly; I love Winners; but Super Kiss was the best guy to me in the whole match. ** 3/4. The segunda saw el Apolo (a new guy, not Apolo Dantes), Superstar, and el Galactico defeat el Brazo de Platino, Super Brazo, and The Rose two falls to zero in 16:20. Considering how young these six are (all four non-Brazos are in their first year) you could not have asked for a better match. El Galactico has a world of potential and the dives at the end of the second fall were fabulous, especially as Super Brazo emulated his porcine brother. The cameras missed it but el Galactico pinned The Rose with a german suplex hold to end the match. The Rose does an exact copy of Pimpinela Escarlata, not so well but still good. *** 1/4. The semifinal saw los Nuevos Destruyores look as good as I have ever seen them as they drew el Angel Azteca, el Solar I, and the debuting Kendo Star (younger brother of Transformer) in 17:24 via a double pin in the third fall. This was a great match. ****. The main saw both teams disqualified in the third fall for a draw at the 12:54 mark. The tecnicos were Octagon, el Hijo del Santo, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo Damian, while the rudos were la Parca, Fishman, and The Blue Panther. Octagon was on fire here and looked like a legit top 20 in the world wrestler with his speed, grace, and timing. Fishman pulled off Octagon's mask and then Aguayo pulled off Fishman's immediately thereafter for the double disqualification draw. *** 1/2. These guys also had a big card in Gomez Palacios, Durango, on June 22. On June 19th in Leon, the main three matches saw 1) la Mascara Sagrada, Super Muneco, and Konnan el Barbaro booked to take on Cien Caras, Universo Dos Mil, and Fuerza Guerrera; 2) Heavy Metal, el Picudo, and The Rose booked to face Super Raton, el Volador, and el Misterioso; and 3) el Giro, el Colorado, and Super Pinocchio booked to face Terremoto, Hecatombe, and Maremoto. Konnan may not have made his booking as he was actually arrested recently in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, and deported for technicalities involving border immigration (in reality, EMLL promoter Paco Alonso would not surrender to Antonio Pena Konnan's valid work permit, so Konnan was entering the country without the valid work permit that would allow him entry). This was such big news it made the cover of *Custodia* magazine's June 30th issue. The formation of the AAA union, "el Sindicato Solidaridad COR" made the front page of Mexico's largest circulation newspaper, *La Prensa* on Friday, June 12th. El Hijo del Santo was interviewed in *USA EL ARMA* and la Aguililla del America was interviewed in *Titanes del Ring* saying he has won 7 mask matches and 8 caballeras.

LATE NEWS: At the usual Sunday UWA el Toreo show held June 21st, the main event saw The Killer lose his UWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship to the challenging el Villano III in three falls in about 21:00. El Villano III won both the first and third falls cleanly with the huracarrana. The semifinal saw Canek team with The Can-Am Express to defeat los Cowboys and Enrique Vera in three falls; both Cowboys bled heavily and they put over The Can-Ams quite strongly. The tercera saw Bull Pain, el Loco Zandokan, and The Black Power II defeat el Coloso, el Celestial, and el Villano I in three falls; in this match, the middle rope broke during the second fall but Bull Pain, thinking quickly, immediately started using the rope to his advantage in choking the tecnicos; all this got great heat. The segunda saw Moctezuma, el Ojo de Tigre, and el Matematico I defeat The Steel Warriors I y II and el Bucanero junior two falls to one. The inicial saw Lasser and Aero Flash draw los Espantos IV and V in the third fall. At la Arena Mexico, the EMLL held its traditional Sunday afternoon card on June 21st. The main event saw Atlantis, el Dandy, and el Ultimo Dragon defeat los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Masakre, and Pierroth junior) in two straight falls. This was a non-title match but the result set up a title match next Sunday (6/28) for the Intocables' CMLL World Trios Titles. The segunda saw Nitron, la Fiera, and Jerry Estrada over The Love Machine, The Blue Demon junior, and el Hijo de Lizmark in three falls. The tercera had las Cavernicolas over Kato Kung Lee I, Kato junior and el Tigre Universitario in three falls. The segunda saw Lola Gonzales, Xochitl Hamada, and Lady Apache over Martha Villalobos, la Pantera Surena, and Wendy la Guerrerilla in three falls. And the inicial saw Ultimatum and el Guerrero Samurai II defeat Enjambre (who jumped back to EMLL from AAA) and el Archangel de la Muerte in three falls.

UWA

First, here are some results new since last week:

* The television taping that aired Saturday, June 20, 1992, was from the card held Friday, June 12, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in the Mexico City suburb of the same name. The main event saw the best match of the show, as Canek and Doctor Wagner junior teamed to defeat the "Boriqueno" duo of Miguelito Perez junior and Ricky Santana in three falls. Correspondent David Scherer of Marmora, New Jersey, rated this as the best match on the show, at ** 1/2. The semifinal saw Eddy Guerrero team with el Villano I and el Villano III to defeat the team of los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) two falls to one in a non-title match. The finish of the third fall saw a heavily bleeding Navarro foul el Villano I for the automatic disqualification. The television opener saw el Scorpio junior, el Espanto junior, and el Kahos junior defeat el Ojo de Tigre (who wears a Tiger Mask mask), el Coloso, and el Tigre Canadiense in three falls. * 1/2. Interviewed on the show were Dorrell Dixon and Takeda, who did a dumb mini-move about being out in a field when suddenly a helpless girl was attacked and Takeda fought off the bad guys with his great martial arts skills.

* From the card at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl held the prior Friday, June 5th, and broadcast on Saturday, June 13th, the main event was a match I had not previously had results on. Now I do. Miguelito Perez junior, el Gigante Warrior, and Ricky Santana defeated the trio of Canek, Rambo, and Doctor Wagner junior two falls to one. The finish of the third fall saw Canek foul Santana in the third fall for the automatic disqualification.

* To reiterate briefly from el Toreo on May 31st, Canek, Wagner, and Killer defeated Black Scorpio, el Signo, and Gigante Warrior in three falls. El Signo replaced Bam Bam Bigelow who was already back in Japan. The semifinal saw Eddy Guerrero, el Hijo del Santo, and el Villano III over Negro Casas and the Head Hunters in three falls. And the tercera had Santana, Perez, and Kahos I over Enrique Vera, el Villano IV, and el Villano V in three falls.

* Lasser retained his UWA World Lightweight Championship in his 21st title defense on Sunday, June 14th, 1992, at Gomez Palacios, Durango, over el Loco Valentino.

Now for some recent cards:

* The 6/18/92 Thursday night card at la Pista Arena Revolucion had Mil Mascaras and el Villano III versus Bull Pain (Rick Gantner) and Doctor Wagner junior. The semifinal had el Coloso, el Texano, and Silver King versus el Bucanero junior, el Espanto junior, and el Loco Zandokan. The segunda had Kahos I and el Lobo Rubio versus el Ojo de Tigre and Moctezuma. The inicial had el Principe Azteca and el Hombre de Fuego versus el Soberbio and el Leopardo Negro I.

* 6/18 at la Arena Toluca in Toluca (capital of the state of Mexico) had a non-title match featuring the current UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) versus el Rey Cobra, el Sismo, and el Azabache Negro, who are a regular team. The semifinal had the debuting Aero Flash and el Celestial versus Ricky Boy and el Hijo del Diablo. The segunda had el Mohicano II and Casandro versus Lasser and el Gran Apache I. The inicial had Frayle Top versus el Futuro.

* Friday, June 19, 1992 had the weekly television taping back at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl. This is set to air Saturday, June 27, 1992, on Mexico's channel 13 (Imevision) and on the Morelos Satellite at 1:30 pm PDT/4:30 pm PDT. The main event had Silver King, el Texano, and Enrique Vera versus Bull Pain, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The semifinal had el Celestial and el Coloso versus el Espanto junior and Doctor Wagner junior. The tercera had los Tortugillos Karatekas I, II, and III (Leonardo, Miguel Angel, and Donatelo, respectively) versus los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte in a non-title match. The segunda had Casandro and Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna versus el Matematico I and el Ninja Sasuke (aka Masa Michinoku in Japan). The opener saw Takeda face el Gran Petroneo.

* Saturday, June 20th, saw two UWA cards near Mexico City. I have only the main event listings. At the traditional Saturday night card for the UWA at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Silver King and el Texano squared off against el Loco Zandokan and Canek. That same night, in Tejupilco, The Baby Face I and The Scorpio I faced Chaos I and el Coloso.

* I hope to have more info on these next two cards in the late news section, but there are two cards I also have main event listings for. At el Toreo on Sunday, June 21st, The Killer defended his UWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship versus el Villano III; plus the Can-Am Express (Phil Lason aka Danny Kroffatt and D. N. S. Funas aka Doug Furnas) were set to re-appear on this show. The next night, 6/22, at la Arena Puebla, Silver King, el Texano, and el Villano III faced Lason, Funas, and Canek in the main event.

* A big UWA card has been signed for Sunday, July 12, 1992, at the "el Palenque de la Feria" park in Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico. Booked so far are los Brazos, Los Cowboys, and The Steel Warriors and their manager.

In UWA news that is not result- or card- related:

* Look for the Can-Am Express to be in from Sunday, June 21, 1992, to Sunday, July 12th, 1992. This allows them three weeks, 22 days, but actually four el Toreo cards. On one of the el Toreo cards, look for the Can-Ams to win the UWA World Parejas Championships from los Cowboys. The newspapers were dropping hints about this here and there. They made a big deal about naming The Can-Ams "official" number one contenders in the UWA offices.

* Doctor Wagner junior and el Angel Blanco junior from the EMLL are in Guatemala for a short tour this weekend.

* The Rafael of the Tortugillos Karatekas I trio is missing from Mexico line-ups because he is on a tour of Japan. He is, in fact, "Rocky" Santana.

LUCHADORES EN JAPON

Let's look at how Mexican wrestlers are doing currently in Japan:

* In the All Japan Women's promotion, Esther and Cynthia Moreno are involved in the annual "Japan Gran Prix" tournament. This tournament is a month-long contest to earn a right to wrestle for the WWWA World Title held by Bull Nakano. Cynthia is in the red league and Esther in the blue league.

* In New Japan, Pimpinela Escarlata and May Flowers start their first Japan tour (after three near-misses) on June 18th at The Korakuen Hall. I have no line-ups for them.

* No luchadores currently are working for Giant Baba's All Japan promotion.

* In the SWS promotion, the last tour before they split up into two sub-groups is occurring this week. Luchadores Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai), el Archangel de la Muerte, and Jerry "el Puma" Estrada (Gerardo Hernandez Estrada) are working the tour. Archangel wrestles versus Nobukazu Hirai on 6/16, versus ? Araoka on the 18th. And he wrestles versus Tetsuya Yamanaka on the 19th. Dragon and Estrada are booked against each other in six-man tag-team main events every night. On the 16th Dragon teams with Genichiro Tenryu and Ashura Hara to face The Giant Kimala I, Estrada, and Hacksaw Jim Duggan. The same match occurs on the 18th and 19th but King Haku replaces Hacksaw Jim Duggan.

* In the W*ING promotion, Jose Luis Arias Romero, wrestling without a mask but still billed as Hussein el Gran Sheik, participated in the W*ING Junior Heavyweight Championship tournament. Sheik defeated eventual champion Jimmy Backlund (via count out of the ring) and Chaz Taylor. He lost to Bill Dundee, Masaru Toi, and The Cheetah Kid.

* No lucha libre guys, not even Norman Smiley, in any of the three UWF offshoots—RINGS, UWFI, or PWFG.

* No lucha libre guys either in LLPW or Oriental Pro Wrestling, the two newest leagues, or JWP.

* In FMW, the big news is that on May 24, 1992, Ultraman Dos Mil (son of the original Ultraman, Milo Ventura) had a mascara contra mascara match versus veteran Tijuana luchador Genghis Khan. Ultraman won in a real comedy match, as he constantly tossed the referee onto Khan. Khan unmasked and was revealed as Isaiah Rodriguez Perez.

* Finally, in the Universal promotion, I have several results. On May 24th, at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, before 1,800 fans, Shu, el Guerrero won the Universal Super Middleweight Crown by pinning Robin Hood (Aaraon Alavarado Nieves, youngest Brazo brother, now wrestling for AAA as Super Atomo) with a figure four hold in 17:04. The main event saw Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada defeat Bulldog Punish K. T. (Keiti Takayama) in 11:49 with the elbow stretcher submission hold. The Dynamic Lynn (Jerry Lynn) and The Lightning Kid (Sean Waltham) defeated Sakagake Gantetsu and Cooley Crush S. Z. (Shoji Akiyoshi) in three falls in 17:38 when Kid pinned Crush in the third fall with the northern lights suplex hold. Mari-Chan (Mariko Yoshida) defeated Mima-Chan (Mima Shimoda) in 15:37 with the "la magisterial" roll-up (aka the Dandina). Finally, el Scorpio junior and el Engendro (Raul Larios) defeated Ciclon Ramirez and America (ex-el Pantera II) in three falls in 22:08 when Scorpio and Engendro combined to make America submit.

* Universal came back for a full tour on June 13th at Korakuen Hall, this time before 2000 fans. Gantetsu pinned el Super Tigrito (a Japanese trainee) in 5:42 in the initial. The segunda saw Rambo, el Engendro, and Rocky Santana (aka Tortugillo Karateka Rafael) defeated el Pantera II, Ciclon Ramirez, and Robin Hood in three falls in 21:13. Rocky Santana does a hilarious Atsushi Onita copy that got over super. Santana pinned Robin Hood with complex hold known as The Rocky special in the third fall. The semifinal saw Shu, el Guerrero, el Scorpio junior, and The Super Dolphin (Hiro Wakida aka Monkey Magic Wakita) defeat Punish, Crush, and Kendo (aka Transformer) in three falls in 21:55. Dolphin pinned Kendo in the third with a sort of standing figure four. The main event saw los Villanos IV and V turn heel and defeat Dos Caras and el Gran Hamada twice, once in 11:01 and then a re-challenge in 1:23, both times via vile rudo tactics.

* On June 14th, Universal traveled to the interior of Japan and played before 1,200 fans. Gantetsu won the initial over Tigrito in 4:25. They held the semifinals of the Universal Super Welterweight Championship Tournament. El

Pantera II pinned Rocky Santana with an off of the top rope quebrada at 6:48 in one semi. The other saw The Super Dolphin defeat Ciclon Ramirez in 12:55 with the same Dolphin Clutch as the night before. The semifinal saw Punish, Kendo, and Robin Hood over Rambo, Scorpio junior, and Engendro. This match went 22:32. The third fall finish saw Punish pin Rambo with a diving head butt. The main event saw Hamada, Caras, and Crush defeat los Villanos IV and V and Shu, el Guerrero, in three falls in 15:15. The finish of the third fall saw Hamada pinning el Villano IV. They had cards booked 6/15 through 6/19 to complete the tour.

WWA

A couple of notes from the southern California area. Due to severe financial problems, the WWA and local promotions have stopped running shows at Tony Longball's Country Club in Reseda, California. They could draw 3,000 to see Konnan in Los Angeles but just 100 in Reseda? Poor (that is, no) advertising and poor planning led to this venue's downfall. The final show was the June 4th show. It isn't the first time this thing have happened to Tony.

Now on to the card held June 14th, 1992, at the football field at The California State University at Los Angeles. As mentioned, the crowd was over 3,000, drawn mostly by Konnan el Barbaro. The advertised main event was el Cobarde II and Konnan versus Cien Caras and Jose "el Negro" Casas. Casas no-showed because EMLL promoter Paco Alonso ordered him to work that day in Mexico City. I do not know why Cien Caras no-showed, but he did. To try to mollify an unruly crowd, they held a moment of silence for Cien Caras's father, which is funny because he passed away in late 1989. Some of the fans were not happy with the obviously phony explanation. The show started a little over 45:00 late due to the late arriving crowds. It was videotaped for airing on an Inglewood, California, public access cable television show, to air Wednesday, June 17th, 1992. Karl Lauer did the English commentary and Mando Guerrero did some of the Spanish commentary. On to the show.

* The first match saw el Rey Misterio junior defeat el Salvaje in three falls. There are at least three "el Salvajes" in the LA/Southern California/Tijuana area; this is a local kid and not the trainer of el Misterioso and others. Because these two have worked together a bunch, it was an excellent match, the best technically on the show as reported by correspondednt Daniel Farren. Misterio did a reverse spinning drop kick, the Super Astro spinning fake-out-tope through the ropes, the Asai moonsault but off of the top rop (la quebrada), and eventually won with that move via count out of the ring in the third fall as el Salvaje could not beat the count of twenty from referee Sergio Garcia.

* The second match saw el Chamacito Rebelde and el Chacal Rivera defeat Super Boy and Cosmos two falls to one in what was said to have been a good match.

* The tercera saw los Mercenarios Americanos (Tim Patterson and Billy Anderson) defeat los Ninjas I and II in three falls. This was said not to be so good as the heavily Hispanic crowd knew that all four of these guys were Americans and as the Ninjas were green (Ninja Turtles?) things didn't flow. Anderson did a nice tope suicida though.

* After the moment of silence, el Cobarde II (who has now jumped to the AAA) came out. At the last show he had worked in Los Angeles, he had been established as a face. To go back heel, he attacked little Micro Konnan with kicks that really got a ton of heat from the crowd until big Konnan saved.

* In the "especial," local wrestlers were featured. The team of The Lover Boy, el Principe Hindu, and el Capitan Oro defeated the team of el Piloto Suicida, el Murella del Ring, and Triton in three falls via disqualification in the third fall.

* The semifinal saw a "mixed" match as Bull Raiders (aka el Rey Misterio), Akihito Ichihara (from FMW), and Micro Fuerza Guerrera lost to Ultraman Dos Mil, el Ultra Tiger (Yukihide Ueno from FMW), and Micro Konnan el Barbaro in three falls. The big guys worked against the little guys throughout the match. At one point, Bull Raiders did an off of the top rope diving body press (splash) onto Micro Konnan el Barbaro. The ruiditos were disqualified in the third fall when el Cobarde II and Mando Guerrero came out and started attacking Micro Konnan, running him into the fence surrounding the football field. Referee Sergio Garcia could not help much, so Konnan el Barbaro and Superstar junior had to come out again to save Micro Konnan. This got the most heat of the card and led into the main event.

* In the main event, Mando Guerrero and el Cobarde II defeated Konnan el Barbaro and Super Star junior in three falls. Konnan bled a bunch starting in the second fall. In the third fall, el Cobarde II fouled Konnan el Barbaro behind referee Sergio Garcia's back; then when Garcia turned around, Cobarde claimed that Konnan had fouled him and sold the phony low blow like a mother. Seeing this, Garcia disqualified Konnan and handed the third fall and the match to Cobarde and Guerrero. These two then issued challenges for a caballera contra caballera match to be held on July 4th at the same field; Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo will be in as Konnan's second. Konnan was all busted up and got enormous heat. Konnan was the whole show as they brought him out three times. The second was during the moment of silence and the third was for the main event match. The first was for an award presentation, as AAA promoter Antonio Pena gave Konnan some kind of award. As noted, they return 7/4 with Octagon's United States debut match, and el Hijo del Santo is booked as well. The main event is tentatively set to be an electrified barbed-wire cage match with FMW promoter Atsushi Onita facing Hulk Hogan's legit cousin, Horace Boulder.

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: PIERROTH JUNIOR

Pierroth junior is truly a child of Cuernavaca. Born in that capital of the state of Morelos on March 10, 1958, Pierroth followed regularly as a child the luchadores who would come in from many federations to Mexico's garden city. He was particularly inspired by one certain local luchador-hero, el Ciclón Rojo. He hung around the locker rooms and gyms and eventually persuaded local wrestlers such as Rojo to train him. In July of 1982, Pierroth made his debut in Cuernavaca. Even though he was a naturally large man (as Mexicans go), he stayed in the Cuernavaca area working local shows for the first five years of his career. In 1987, he, having been scouted by the EMLL, was signed and brought in to work the Mexico City circuits. He immediately got over huge. Less than one year after his arrival in Mexico City, he had already made it to the top. On April 4, 1988, at la Arena San Lorenzo in suburban Mexico City, Pierroth junior defeated el Halcon 78 to win the Mexican National Light Heavyweight Championship (el Halcon 78 immediately jumped to the UWA). He held that title for five months before losing it to Mogur at the 55th anniversary of lucha libre show at la Arena Mexico in September 1988. Mogur in turn dropped the strap back to Pierroth junior on Friday, January 12, 1990, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City. Pierroth then held that belt a lengthy fourteen months, before he dropped it to la Mascara Sagrada on March 21, 1991, at la Arena Isabel in Pierroth's hometown of Cuernavaca. Home town title matches weren't good for Pierroth in 1991, as he also lost in his city the finals of the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship tournament on Thursday, September 26, 1991, to Jerry "el Puma" Estrada. Eventually, Pierroth gained the CMLL belt back, though, winning in Cuernavaca on Thursday, March 19, 1992 over Estrada. Just three days later, Pierroth won another CMLL World belt, as he teamed with Jacques Mate and Masakre as "los Intocables del Ring" to defeat los Nuevos Infernales (el Satanico, M. S. 1, and Pirata Morgan) in three falls at la Arena Mexico on Sunday, March 22, 1992. That represents Pierroth's entire title history with one exception—from March 26, 1990 to May 9, 1991, Pierroth and la Bestia Salvaje were Mexican National Parejas Champions. They won the titles from el Angel Azteca and Atlantis and lost them to el Angel Azteca and el Volador. Pierroth junior's value the promotion is twofold. First he is an invaluable presence behind the scenes and in the locker rooms, well respected and a real peacemaker. Second, he speaks English and understands the American concepts of wrestling, and always helps to get the new American wrestlers (such as Black Magic and The Love Machine) acclimated to the lucha libre style and ways. By the way, there is no "Pierroth" senior. Pierroth took his ring name from a famous French clown called "Pierrot" and since there already was a Pierrot, even though it wasn't in wrestling, the wrestler would bill himself as a junior, i.e., Pierroth junior. A rudo, Pierroth is one of the most valuable players in the EMLL. Very talented, though not quite so athletically gifted as a Negro Casas, a Bestia Salvaje, or an Emilio Charles junior, Pierroth, due to his larger size, may yet be the most talented of the EMLL heavyweights still left.

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